The Printers PROPOSALS

For a Regulation of the PRESS.

I. THAT all Printing Preſſes be Regiſter'd, with the Names and Places of Abode of the Proprietors thereof, and all the Rooms wherein ſuch Preſſes are ſet up; this to be repeated as often as any Preſs ſhall be removed out of one Room into another, or the Intereſt thereof transferred to the Uſe of any other Perſon, and not one Sheet to be Printed off till ſuch Regiſtry be firſt made, under the Penalty of

II. That every Printer ſhall have a particular Mark to be regiſter'd alſo with his Name and Preſſes; which ſaid Mark he ſhall always be obliged to Print viſibly at the Bottom of the firſt Page of every Sheet or Half Sheet by him Printed, under the Penalty of

III. That all Title Pages ſhall contain ſome Regiſter'd Printer's Name, and Place of Abode, with the Year when Printed, under the Penalty of And if any thing Printed after without ſuch Name and Mark in the Title Page, and alſo the proper Mark or Marks of every other Printer in all other Sheets thereof, placed as is before directed, (though ſuch Papers or Books be otherwiſe never ſo inoffenſive) ſhall be found in the Cuſtody of any Perſon whatſoever, either for Sale, or to be given away, or kept for private Uſe, it ſhall be at the Liberty of any Perſon ſeeing the ſame, to ſeize and carry away ſuch Paper or Papers, Book or Books, or Parts of Books, and deliver them to the next Juſtice of Peace, and not only be exempted from any Action or Actions, but alſo receive for ſo doing, a Reward of to be levied on the Perſon in whoſe Cuſtody ſuch Goods ſhall be ſo found, who ſhall alſo be further liable to all the Penalties of this Act, unleſs he ſhall diſcover the Perſon from whom he had them. And if it be pretended by the Perſons on whom ſuch Seizure is made, that the Papers were Printed before the Commencement of this Act, let them be obliged to make out the Truth of ſuch Allegation ſufficiently teſtified on Oath, within Days, or otherwiſe the ſaid Juſtice to cauſe the ſaid Papers or Books to be burnt or deſtroyed.

IV. That every Printer over and above the Penalties of this Act, ſhall be ſubject and liable to all other Proſecutions for any thing offenſive contained in whatſoever Sheet, or part of a Sheet he ſhall Print, with his Mark or without, unleſs he ſhall diſcover the Author, or the Party from whom he had the Copy.

V. That every Perſon who ſhall preſume to counterfeit or make uſe of the Mark or Name of any other Printer, ſhall be guilty of and all Perſons acceſſary to ſuch a Cheat, liable to the ſame Puniſhment, except the firſt Diſcoverer.

VI. That no Perſons be admitted to Regiſter any Printing Preſs or Preſſes, nor be taken into Copartnerſhip with, or have any Intereſt in or Title to any ſuch Regiſter, or the Benefit thereof; but ſuch only as themſelves have, or the Widows or Children of ſuch as have ſerved Seven Years Apprenticeſhip to the Art of Printing.

N. B. *Moſt of the Papers lately Publiſh'd, which have given Offence, were Printed by ſuch as have not ſerv'd an Apprenticeſhip to the Art of Printing, tho' they keep Printing Preſſes.*

The Firſt Article prevents all Private Preſſes.

And the Second diſcovers the Printer of every Sheet, though a Book ſhould be divided among many Printers, as is ſometimes practis'd.

The Third ſuppreſſes the Publication of all Treaſon, Sedition, or Scandal, which will be the only things attempted to be Clandeſtinely Printed, and conſequently prevents the Printing thereof; for no Perſon will print what cannot be diſperſed, nor will any one receive what cannot be ſafely kept in his Cuſtody.

And then the Fourth Article will be a ſufficient Caution to all Printers to be careful of what they undertake to Print, and for whom; when the Publication will be ſo difficult, and the Means of diſcovering ſo eaſie.

The Fifth Article will prevent an innocent Perſon ſuffering for the Faults of another's Forgery.

All which is Humbly ſubmitted to the Conſideration of this HONOURABLE HOUSE, *by the* PRINTERS *of* LONDON; *who as they are willing and deſirous a Stop ſhould be put to the Publication of all Papers or Books that may be offenſive; ſo they humbly hope and beſeech your* HONOURS, *that if by theſe Propoſals the* Evils *of the* PRESS *ſhall be prevented, they may be permitted the innocent Exerciſe of their Callings; without being obliged to Print the Name of the* AUTHOR *in the Title Page of every Book, which will very much diſcourage the Publication of many excellent Treatiſes, through the exceſs of Modeſty in ſome, who will rather ſtifle their Performances, than ſuffer their Names to appear in Print, though to a Work deſerving the greateſt Applauſe. And on the other hand, ſome very good Books will be leſſened in the Eſteem of many Readers, through a Prejudice to its* AUTHOR, *both which will be very prejudicial to them, and they hope your* HONOURS *will not think it neceſſary to be inſiſted on. Nor are they without Grounds enclined to believe that your* HONOURS *will pleaſe to deſiſt from further loading them with the intended Duty of Stamps on all Pamphlets, when you ſhall be ſatisfied it can by no Means raiſe any Advantage to the* CROWN, *but only ſuppreſs the Printing of all ſuch ſmall Tracts; many of which if Printed and Sold at a reaſonable Price, might be of great uſe to the Publick.*

THE Printers CASE: WITH THEIR PROPOSALS FOR Regulating the PRESS.